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Title: Rise in prices of essential commodities.

SHRIMATI C. S. SUJATHA : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the issue of steep hike in the prices of essential commodities including grains, cereals and even medicines. This has been causing unbearable hardship to the common people. The UPA Government is continuously reducing the food subsidy in each Budget. The Government has hiked the price of petroleum products seven times since it assumed power, and it is contemplating another hike. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri K. Francis George has already raised this issue.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : No, Sir. It was a separate issue.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA : It was a separate issue.

The Government is also thinking in terms of raising the rate of food grains distributed to the BPL and APL cardholders. There is also a move to stop giving the food grains provided to the workers under the employment schemes.

The Government is indifferent in tackling the price hike, which is evident from the reported statement of the hon. Prime Minister in the media that price hike cannot be contained. In fact, the UPA Government never took any positive measure to curb price hike. Instead, its policies have only helped the hoarders and forward traders.

The Left Parties and Women's Organisations, particularly, the All India Democratic Women's Association is continuously demanding the Government to take effective measures to curb price rise and save the poor people of this country. Thank you.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Sir, we demand that there should be a separate discussion on this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next issue to be raised is by Shri Ramdas Athawale. The issue of farmers has already been discussed. Hence, you can sum-up your submission very briefly.